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Senate Clears 19 Nominees To District, Appeals Courts

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON—The Senate ended a stalemate over judicial appointments and approved 19 nominees to federal district and appeals courts.

Among those approved yesterday was Stanley Sporkin, general counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency and former enforcement director for the Securities and Exchange Commission. His nomination for the federal district court for the District of Columbia was delayed 18 months because Sen. Jeremiah Denton, an Alabama Republican, charged that he aided a former CIA official whom the Federal Bureau of Investigation suspected of espionage.

Senate Democrats held up most of the 19 appointments for about two months to try to force Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee to slow the pace of processing judicial appointments. Republican senators said the pace wasn't too fast, but they recently agreed to a timetable for handling nominations.

Democrats continued to block votes on the judicial candidates, however, until Sen. Denton released Mr. Sporkin's nomination last week.

One nominee, former Sen. James Buckley, who was picked by President Reagan for the federal appeals court in the District of Columbia, is scheduled to be voted on today.